

Executive Committee
January 1965

Confidentia
C o n f i d e n t i a l
Not for publication

M I N U T E S
of the
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Enugu, Nigeria
January 10-12, 1965

C o n t e n t s

1. Opening worship	1
2. Roll Call	2
3. Minutes of previous meeting	2
4. Arrangements for Central Committee	2
5. Report of Executive Committee to Central Committee	2
6. Relations with the Roman Catholic Church	2
7. Applications for membership	2
8. Re-examination of the Council's Structure	3
9. Preparations for the Fourth Assembly	3
10. World Association of Christian Broadcasting	4
11. Nominations to Joint Study Commission WCC/WCCSSA	4
12. Volunteer for FAO	4
13. John R. Mott Centenary	5
14. Life and Work Conference 1925	6
15. History of the Ecumenical Movement	6
16. Future meetings	6
17. Armenian Commemoration	7
18. World Christian Statistics	7
19. Definition of a Closed Session of Central Committee	9
20. Staffing Sub-Committee	9
21. Report of Finance Sub-Committee	10
Closing worship	13

Appendices

- I Statement concerning the relationships between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church
- II Some preliminary considerations concerning the nature, subject-matter and theme of the Fourth Assembly of the WCC
- III Extract taken from the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the World Association for Christian Broadcasting held at Arnoldshain, Germany, May 10-13, 1964

- - - - -

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

M i n u t e s

of the

meeting of the Executive Committee,

Enugu, Nigeria, January 10-12, 1965

Present

Presidents : The Most Rev. the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Rev. Iakovos, Archbishop of North & South America
His Excellency Sir Francis Ibiam
The Rev. Dr Martin Niemöller
Mr Charles Parlin

Chairmen : Dr Franklin Clark Fry
Dr Ernest A. Payne

Members : Dr C.G. Baëta
Dr E. Carson Blake
Dr Kathleen Bliss
Dr Alford Carleton
Dr J. Russell Chandran
Dr Ivy Chou
Bishop Hanns Lilje
Mr J. Irwin Miller
His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim of Leningrad and Ladoga
Bishop Emilianos (substitute for Metropolitan Iakovos)

Consultants: Dr Norman Goodall
Sir Kenneth Grubb
Archpriest Vitaly Borovoy

Staff :

Rev. Paul Abrecht	Mr Philippe Maury
Dr Charles W. Arbuthnot	Rev. Raymond E. Maxwell
Dr Madeleine Barot	Bishop Lesslie Newbigin
Rev. Alan A. Brash	Dr O. Fred. Nolde
Dr George W. Carpenter	Mr Frank Northam
Rev. Ban It Chiu	Rev. Patrick C. Rodger
Dr Leslie E. Cooke	Dr Roland W. Scott
Rev. Anker Gjerding	Mr Baldwin Ch. Sjollema
Rev. Victor Hayward	Dr Eugene L. Smith
Rev. Albert H. van den Heuvel	Mr John Taylor
Dr Gwenyth Hubble	Father Paul Verghese
Dr Paul Löffler	Dr Lukas Vischer
Dr Mauricio Lopez	Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Dr Hans.J. Margull	Rev. Michael de Vries
Dr Zacharia K. Matthews	Mr Ralph C. Young

1. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman.

2. Roll Call

Dr Visser 't Hooft called the roll of those present, and presented apologies from Bishop S.U. Barbieri, Archbishop G. Hultgren, Dr D.G. Moses, Archbishop F. Woods and the Metropolitan of Philadelphia. Bishop Emilianos had been asked to act as substitute for the Metropolitan. A telegramme was later received from Professor J. Hromadka expressing his disappointment that owing to visa difficulties he was unable to be present.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Tutzing, July 27-31 1964, having been previously circulated, were adopted.

4. Arrangements for Central Committee

Dr Scott outlined the arrangements for the meeting of the Central Committee, 12th to 21st January, and presented drafts of the Agenda, Time-table and the membership of the sub-committees, Policy Reference Committees I, II and III, Staffing and Nominations Committee and Finance Committee. The proposed arrangements were approved, the officers being empowered to make any adjustments which might prove necessary.

5. Report of the Executive Committee to Central Committee

A draft of the report of the Executive Committee to the Central Committee was in the hands of members. It was agreed that this be adopted for presentation to Central Committee.

6. Relations with the Roman Catholic Church

Dr Visser 't Hooft presented a statement regarding relations with the Roman Catholic Church. After discussion and amendment it was AGREED -

that the statement concerning the relationships between the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church be adopted for presentation to Central Committee. (see Appendix I)

7. Applications for membership

Dr Visser 't Hooft presented applications for membership in the Council. After discussion it was RESOLVED -

- (i) to recommend to Central Committee that the following Churches be accepted for membership in the World Council of Churches in accordance with the Rules :
 - a) Indonesian Christian Church (Geredja Kristen Indonesia)
 - b) Serbian Orthodox Church
 - c) Lesotho Evangelical Church (Basutoland)
 - d) The Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Churches
 - e) Disciples of Christ in the Congo.

- (ii) to recommend to the Central Committee that the following Churches be accepted as associated members of the World Council of Churches :

- a) The Church of Christ in the Upper Nile (Sudan)
- b) Igreja Evangelica Presbiteriana Portugal
- c) Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Rio Muni (West Africa)
- d) The Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention (subject to further consideration in Policy Reference Committee I).

8. Committee on the Re-examination of the Council's Structure

Dr Goodall spoke to the Report of the Committee on the Re-examination of the Council's Structure, copies of which were in the hands of members, touching on the various questions that had been considered and the conclusions to which the Committee had come. After some discussion it was

AGREED to recommend to Central Committee -

- a) that the Report of the Committee on the Re-examination of the Council's Structure be remitted to Central Committee for consideration by Policy Reference Committee I;
- b) that Section "G" of the Report dealing with the Department of Finance and Administration be passed to the Finance Sub-Committee of Central Committee.

It was suggested that Policy Reference Committee I be asked to bear in mind questions which had been raised during the discussion, including (a) the fact that one of the main structural questions calling for early consideration was that of the relationship between the Divisions of World Mission and Evangelism and Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service. It was suggested that this might first be considered in joint discussions between representatives of the two Divisions, arrangements for which were already in hand. (b) that certain points listed under the heading "Unfinished Business" could be dealt with in staff discussions and did not call for any special examination by a Committee on Structure; (c) that more fundamental questions of structure, including their financial implications, should receive further consideration with a view to a report being presented to the Fourth Assembly.

9. Preparations for the Fourth Assembly

Dr Visser 't Hooft presented a staff document concerning the nature, subject-matter and theme of the Fourth Assembly (see Appendix II). During the ensuing discussion a number of suggestions were made, including the proposal that a special sub-committee might be set up to consider some of the questions involved. Mr Hayward reported that the Divisional Committee of the Division of Studies had prepared a paper for presentation to the Central Committee concerning a possible theme for the Assembly. It was hoped that the on-going study of the various departments might be played into the Assembly preparations and the Committee was proposing that an "inspirational theme" which would not restrict the Assembly too closely would be chosen, such as "The Renewal of All Things" or "Behold, I make all things new". After consideration of this and other possible themes it

was AGREED -

that the staff paper "Some preliminary considerations concerning the nature, subject-matter and theme of the Fourth Assembly" be remitted to Central Committee.

10. World Association of Christian Broadcasting

Mr Philippe Maury reported on discussion in the Executive Committee of the World Association of Christian Broadcasting concerning the question of its relationship with the World Council of Churches (see Appendix III). After discussion it was AGREED -

to recommend to Central Committee that the World Association of Christian Broadcasting be recognized as an ecumenical organization under the provisions of Section VII of the Constitution of the WCC, and that it be invited to send one representative to meetings of the Assembly and of the Central Committee.

11. Nominations to Joint Study Commission WCC/WCCESSA

Father Paul Verghese reported that following the decision of the Executive Committee at its meeting in Odessa, February 1964, invitations had been sent to the 25 persons then named to serve on the Joint Study Commission on Education of the WCC/WCCESSA. All but five had accepted nomination. The Divisional Committee of the Division of Ecumenical Action would be making a proposal to Central Committee through the Staffing and Nominations Committee for the filling of four of the five vacancies, subject to concurrent action by the WCCESSA. Father Paul asked for authorization to be given to the officers to act in respect of the remaining vacancy. It was AGREED -

that authorization be given to the officers, in consultation with WCCESSA, to fill the remaining vacancy on the Joint Study Commission on Education on the recommendation of the officers of the Division of Ecumenical Action.

12. Volunteer for FAO

Father Paul Verghese presented the following report regarding the provision of a volunteer in the office of the coordinator of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign:

1. The Youth Department was approached through the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service by Food and Agricultural Organization to provide the services of an outstanding youth leader who would work as a volunteer in the office of the coordinator of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. His special responsibilities would ensue in the context of Young World Mobilisation Appeal, which is a project to interest a younger generation in the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and solicit their support for it.

2. The Young World Mobilization Appeal has been heavily criticized by voluntary (youth) and non-governmental organizations for having been conceived, worked out and launched by Food and Agricultural Organization without any, or in any case without enough, consultation with youth organizations. The idea has been accepted, however, since most of the youth organizations have seen the necessity of giving major attention to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

3. The appeal for volunteers has gone only to the Roman Catholic Church through caritas internationalis. From them a principally positive answer has been received.

4. The original proposal was to make available the services of a volunteer for the period of one year. In conversations with DICARWS (Dr Cooke, Dr Puffert), CCIA (Dr Slotemaker de Bruine) and FAO (Mr Tweddle) the Youth Department came to the conviction that meaningful contribution could only be made if the volunteer could stay for a longer period.

5. During a three-year period the volunteer will be appointed and supervised by Food and Agricultural Organization, work under the direction of the coordinator of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and, employed by the World Council of Churches, his salary will be paid by the Youth Department through the good services of the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service according to regulations now used for its field staff.

The Executive Secretary of the Youth Department will remain in close touch with the volunteer and make it possible for him to relate the thinking of the World Council of Churches on the Freedom from Hunger Campaign in the wider perspective of ecumenical service and to keep the World Council informed about developments in the Food and Agricultural Organization.

6. The DICARWS has granted to the Youth Department a three-year contribution of \$ 24.000 for this project and the Youth Department asks the Executive Committee to empower the General Secretary to issue an invitation when the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Council of Churches have reached agreement on a candidate.

It was RESOLVED -

that when a decision regarding a suitable candidate as a volunteer in the office of the coordinator of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign is reached, the General Secretary be authorized to extend the necessary invitation.

13. John R. Mott Centenary

Bishop Newbigin reminded the Committee that in May 1965 the centenary of the birth of Dr John R. Mott would occur. A proposal had been made in New York for the production of a biography of Dr Mott and plans were under consideration for an appropriate

celebration in Geneva among the staffs of the organizations with which he had been connected. Mr Hayward reported that, in accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee at its Tutzing meeting, negotiations were in process with Messrs Hodder & Stoughton for the publication of a book not exceeding 50,000 words to mark the occasion. Dr Robert Mackie had prepared the biographical sketch which would constitute the first part of the book. The second section would contain extracts from speeches and writings of Dr Mott, and the third section would consist of briefer sketches from a number of people who had known him.

14. Life and Work Conference 1925

Dr Visser 't Hooft reported that on 19th August there would be a celebration in Stockholm of the Life and Work Conference held there forty years ago.

15. History of the Ecumenical Movement

The Rev. Patrick Rodger reported that the Editorial Committee of the SPCK had agreed to sign a contract for the publication of a reprint of the Neill and Rouse "History of the Ecumenical Movement". For reasons of expense this should be kept as close as possible to the original, with the addition of a chapter of some 50 pages bringing the History up to date. This would be a cloth-bound edition, published in collaboration with the Westminster Press in the USA. The price would be about three guineas. It was possible that a paper-back edition might be brought out later.

It had been hoped that Dr Goodall would be able to do the necessary work in connection with this reprint but pressure of other responsibilities had made it necessary for him to decline. The Rev. Francis House and Mrs House had now been invited to undertake the task jointly and there was every hope that they would be willing to do this. Work on the revision of the bibliography was already being done in the WCC library.

The Committee expressed the hope that questions of economy would not prevent the necessary corrections and additions being made to the original edition. Reference was made to the need for revision in relation to the Jerusalem Conference, and it was suggested that an Orthodox scholar might be asked to examine those sections of the volume dealing with the Orthodox Churches.

Dr Visser 't Hooft asked members who had noted inaccuracies or omissions to send a note of them to Mr Rodger.

16. Future meetings

The Committee was reminded of the dates of future meetings as follows :

July 11th (Sunday) to 15th, 1965 - in Geneva

February 7th to 11th 1966 - place to be determined

August 6th to 8th 1966 - contingent upon the date of Central Committee.

With regard to the meeting in Geneva in July, Bishop Newbigin reported that plans were in hand for the dedication of the Chapel Building at the new headquarters at this time, in which it was hoped the Executive Committee would take part. There was every likelihood that Eurovision would be interested in having this event telecast to a number of countries in Europe. Further details regarding the programme would be provided in due course. It was hoped to make the occasion one of dedication of the new headquarters as a place of work and worship.

17. Armenian Commemoration

Dr Visser 't Hooft reported that the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin had sent a request that member churches of the World Council be invited to participate in the remembrance of the Armenian massacre which the whole Armenian Church would be commemorating. He suggested that a reference to this might be included in the letter which he would be sending as General Secretary to member churches after Central Committee. It was agreed that this be done.

18. World Christian Statistics

Bishop Newbigin reported on discussion in the Divisional Committee of the Division of World Mission and Evangelism on recommendations made by a meeting of representatives of the Institute of Social Studies, (ISS), at the Hague and the International Federation of Catholic Institutes for Social and Socio-religious Research (FERES) with WCC staff members. At this meeting the following proposals had been made :

a) To submit the following proposals to the Institute of Social Studies at the Hague and to the International Federation of Catholic Institutes for Social and Socio-religious Research at Brussels :

i) That the two Institutes co-operate jointly to set up a Foundation, which would be an independent body with a legal personality, for the purpose of providing a continuing statistical and documentary service for the churches.

ii) That for this purpose they appoint, subject to the conditions below, a Board of Trustees of six persons.

iii) That they agree to consult with the World Council of Churches and the appropriate Roman Catholic body before making nominations to the Board, and

iv) that the Board include three members of the Roman Catholic Church and three members suggested by the World Council of Churches to include Orthodox, Protestant, and Conservative Evangelical interests.

b) The members present undertook to explore resources of financial support for such a foundation.

c) It was expected that such a Board could be consulted by

the churches as to what statistics and documentation was needed by them. Also the Board could be available to advise the churches on the compilation and collection of statistics. This Board would also supply to international organizations such church statistics as it is desirable for them to have.

d) Subject to the approval of the Centre Eglise Vivante (Louvain) and the Survey Application Trust (London), we would ask this Board also to accept responsibility, if this is acceptable to those concerned, for the publication of a volume roughly similar to the Bilan du Monde, which would give both background information and statistical and factual information. In providing such statistical material the needs of the following groups have to be borne in mind : the secular and religious press, universities and research institutions, seminaries, leaders of church and mission agencies and ecumenical bodies, leaders of youth movements and of agencies of Christian education, and private individuals. It would be understood that the Board would make arrangements with commercial publishers to take full publishing responsibility for these volumes, in English, and in French, and possibly other languages. It was suggested publication be in the major languages in rotation, possibly one each year, keeping up the revision of the statistics for each volume. In French, Casterman would be the publisher to be first contacted because of his responsibility for the first two editions of Bilan du Monde.

We would also ask the Board to produce Directories, similar in character to the directory section in the World Christian Handbook.

- e) The staff of the Board would probably have to include :
- 2 University trained men, preferably with research experience, qualified in Statistics/Demography/Sociology, to be responsible for the collection, processing and documentation of statistics,
 - 1 over-all editor for publications, with sub-editors as required for different languages,
 - 1 secretary for administration,
 - 1 typist.

The Board would appoint one of the three senior staff as Director.

f) It would be understood that the writing of background material on each country or church would have to be entrusted to different people so as to ensure that the results were acceptable to the Christians of different confessions in that country.

At the meeting of the Divisional Committee of DWME during the preceding week the following action had been taken :

The Divisional Committee

- a) received the Minutes of the meeting and welcomed the proposals they contained;
- b) urged that the intention be made clear that what is in view is not merely the collection of data, but the scientific analysis of the data by competent sociologists as a basis for planning;
- c) asked the World Council of Churches to authorise the further exploration of this proposal and of the possibility of financial resources.

The Committee also

- d) noted that in order to secure the continued co-operation of Conservative Evangelicals, which is essential to the success of the plan, the Survey Application Trust should be consulted about a nomination to the Board;
- e) noted that the Board might have to have 7 rather than 6 members.

Mr Philippe Maury reported that the Working Committee of the Department of Information had considered the proposal, to which it had given general approval.

It was RESOLVED -

that the Executive Committee approve the above plan in principle and authorize the staff to make further investigations, to explore financial resources, and to bring more precise proposals to a later meeting.

19. Definition of a Closed Session of Central Committee

Dr Payne asked for a ruling regarding the definition of a closed session of Central Committee. It was AGREED -

that a closed session of Central Committee should consist of members of the Committee, substitutes for members, and representatives of member churches not otherwise represented, those present in the latter category not being eligible to vote.

It was further AGREED -

that the rules of debate governing a business session of the Central Committee should be interpreted to cover a closed session of the Committee.

20. Staffing Sub-Committee

The Staffing Sub-Committee met in closed session and its report is circulated to members of the Executive Committee.

21. Report of Finance Sub-Committee

Dr Niemöller presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee, which is set out below. The actions of the Executive Committee are recorded after each section of the report.

"1. The Finance Sub-Committee held one brief meeting to examine those matters requiring attention from or falling within the competence of the Executive Committee. Most financial questions will be submitted direct to the Finance Committee and through that Committee to the Central Committee."

Financial Position in respect of the General Budget

"2. As indicated in the draft report of the Executive Committee to the Central Committee, there are encouraging aspects of the position. Whereas in August 1963 a deficit of as much as £ 56,000 was foreseen on 1964 operations under the General Budget, it is now expected that the deficit will be less than £ 10,000. Adding the deficit of £ 17,620 remaining uncovered from 1963, there will be an uncovered accumulated deficit at the end of 1964 of £ 17,500 - 25,000. Income will rise in 1965 as a result of the response of member churches to the request for increased contributions. That response has been generally favourable, though there have been some notable exceptions.

3. The financial position remains nonetheless difficult, mainly by reason of the continued rise in prices and costs. A General Budget for 1965 totalling £ 930,000 will be presented to the Finance Committee. The income budget represents a sound estimate of probable income but is unlikely to be exceeded; the expenditure budget is a realistic estimate of the needs for the maintenance of the programme but careful control will be necessary to ensure that expenditure does not exceed the budget level; and the budget includes no provision for covering the accumulated deficit at the end of 1964.

4. Income towards the Programme Projects list totalling £ 565,000 is now estimated at £ 390,000. There is thus need of further support of about £ 175,000 to permit the realisation of the full series of Programme Projects for execution in the period up to the Fourth Assembly and this list includes an amount of £ 175,000 for the World Conference of the Department on Church and Society planned for 1966. Furthermore, as was to be foreseen, departments are finding that other projects arise from their work which were not foreseen and included in the basic approved list which was prepared in 1963.

5. This very summary review indicates the validity of the comment in the draft report of the Executive Committee to the Central Committee that 'the problems for consideration by the Finance Committee will not be easy to solve' and presents a necessary background for the following items on which the Finance Sub-Committee presents recommendations for action to the Executive Committee."

The Executive Committee received this section for information without discussion.

Headquarters Properties

"6. The Finance Sub-Committee learned with satisfaction that the most recent estimates indicate that the cost of the completion of the new headquarters properties will be within the estimates originally presented in August 1960 and that it is foreseen that a balance of about Fr.1,000,000 (about \$ 250,000) will remain in the Headquarters Properties Fund when all expenses have been covered.

7. It is, however, becoming clear that the need to enlarge the buildings must be considered in the immediate future notwithstanding the seeming conflict with the decision of the Central Committee in August 1963 to the effect that no extension of the programme should be undertaken before the Fourth Assembly which would involve a general appeal to the member churches for a further increase in contributions for the General Budget. The new buildings contain in total 281 offices. At present there are 19½ rooms unoccupied. It seems highly probable, unless unfavourable economic developments intervene, that there will be an insufficiency of office space before the end of 1966.

8. The need for extra office space arises from activities other than those under the General Budget. The size of the buildings was decided at the time when plans were adopted in 1960 on the basis of plans previously prepared in 1957 and there has been a sizeable growth in the intervening period. The activities of the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service continue to grow. Staff is needed for the administration of SASP activities. The Geneva staff of the Division of World Mission and Evangelism is likely to grow. The Lutheran World Federation foresees the need for increased office accommodation and the needs of other related organisations are also growing. Thus, the pressure on available space continues, without the growth being in those units financed under the General Budget.

9. The Finance Sub-Committee examined this question in the light of the problems which it presents : in view of the financial difficulties in respect of those operations under the General Budget and Programme Projects, it seems questionable whether the need for additional resources to finance an extension of the buildings should be raised at this time, even though it might be possible to secure gifts for this purpose which would not be available for the General Budget or Programme Projects; it may also seem premature to consider an extension of the buildings before the initial building programme has been completed and before final costs are known. The Finance Sub-Committee reached the following conclusions :

- a) that it would not be desirable to request any action on this question by the Central Committee at the present meeting;

- b) that it would be within the competence of the Executive Committee to take action to seek to secure resources and/or to authorise construction, if resources were assured, if action should be needed before the next Central Committee meeting; and
- c) that there are no restrictions which would hinder the acceptance of special gifts towards the cost of an extension of the buildings, if any such gifts should be offered."

Dr Blake expressed the gratification and congratulations of the committee on hearing the report that expenditure would be within estimates. Dr Fry expressed his agreement with the three conclusions set out above. Dr Niemöller reported that if an extension is to be constructed, it would be an extension of the Jura wing providing about 90 further offices. The Executive Committee received the report and concurred in the three conclusions, including the judgement that the matter should not be brought before the Central Committee at this time.

The following two items were submitted to the Executive Committee separately in a confidential closed session.

Salaries

"10. Inflationary tendencies continue to be operative in Switzerland and the Finance Sub-Committee examined recommendations concerning salaries submitted from the Staff Executive Group. After examination of the justification for those recommendations, the Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend approval of the following recommendations :

- a) that a general increase of 5% of all Geneva Headquarters salaries be granted as from January 1, 1965; and
- b) that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee and the Chairman of the Finance Committee be empowered to name an ad hoc committee, international in character but composed mainly of persons resident in Geneva, to review the salary scales at Geneva Headquarters and recommend what modifications, if any, are desirable.

Provision for the cost of the implementation of recommendation a) is included in the suggested General Budget for 1965 totalling \$ 930,000. As to recommendation b), it would be hoped that a first report might be made to the July meeting of the Executive Committee, though this would almost certainly be an interim report."

Dr Carleton asked whether the ad hoc committee might not also examine salaries in the London and New York offices. Dr Visser 't Hooft suggested that this would involve seeking a committee of different technical competence and Dr Carleton withdrew his suggestion.

The Executive Committee AGREED :

to approve the above recommendations, subject to the adoption by Central Committee of a budget including financial provision for the expense involved in recommendation a).

Home leave

"11. The Staff Executive Group recommends in the case of four members of the Secretarial Staff, that authority should be granted for the payment of fares for home leave for their families. This recommendation was not submitted to the Finance Sub-Committee and is therefore submitted direct in this report to the Executive Committee."

Oral explanation was given in respect of two cases which were slightly exceptional and the Executive Committee then AGREED :

to give approval for the payment of fares for home leave for families in respect of four members of the Secretarial Staff.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

The Executive Committee in its capacity as Nominating Committee for a successor to the General Secretary met in closed session on several occasions during the course of the meeting.

- - - - -

Statement concerning the relationships between
the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church

1. At its meeting in Rochester in 1963 the Central Committee of the WCC adopted a statement on relations with the Roman Catholic Church which spoke of the beginning of a genuinely ecumenical dialogue between the Roman Catholic and other churches, resting upon the one foundation of God's revelation of himself in Jesus Christ, aiming at deeper understanding, mutual enrichment and the renewal of the life of the Churches in which the profound dogmatic differences can be faced in a spirit of love and humility. It was urged that every opportunity be seized for the development of this dialogue at every level of the life of the churches. A number of specific issues were mentioned which must be faced if true dialogue is to be possible.
2. The World Council itself is preparing for this dialogue in several ways : through the sending of observers to the sessions of the second Vatican Council; through a number of consultations on specific topics such as the work among the laity or missionary problems, on social questions and more generally through the contacts which have been established with the Secretariat for the Promotion of Unity in Rome.
3. The adoption and promulgation of the Decree "De Oecumenismo" by the Roman Catholic Church has created a new situation. The fact that the Roman Catholic Church expresses so definitely its desire to enter into conversation with the other churches and expresses its convictions on the subject is an important new fact in the development of the ecumenical movement. For the Roman Catholic Church thus adopts a number of principles and policies which have guided the churches in the Ecumenical Movement in the past decades. There are points in which the conception of ecumenical relations is the same as that developed in the World Council of Churches and in its member churches. There are other points in which there are considerable differences. The World Council of Churches which has always sought "to draw Churches out of isolation into conference" must surely use this opportunity to do whatever it can do, in the light of its mandate, to encourage these new contacts and should itself enter into a conversation with the Roman Catholic Church about common concerns and unsolved problems of relationships.
- The very fact that there are differences in our conceptions of ecumenical relations obliges us for the sake of a healthy development of the ecumenical movement to do our utmost to clarify our positions and, if possible, to arrive at mutual understanding.
4. Preliminary conversations have taken place between representatives of the WCC and of the Secretariat for the Promotion of Unity. The WCC's Executive Committee has given serious consideration to the matter and a number of church leaders have been consulted.

These discussions have led to the conclusion that the time has come to elaborate a common understanding between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church concerning the principles on which the relationships should be based and the manner in which they should be developed.

5. The World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church are not comparable entities. The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of many churches with different confessional background. The Roman Catholic Church is a single Church. Their cooperation creates therefore special problems. These problems can however best be solved by frank discussion.

6. It is very important to note that the competence of the WCC in this field has its strict limitations. It cannot act for the member churches, unless it is specifically authorised to do so. The principle laid down in the Toronto Declaration must be faithfully observed :

"The purpose of the World Council of Churches is not to negotiate unions between churches, which can only be done by the churches themselves acting on their own initiative, but to bring the churches into living contact with each other and to promote the study and discussion of the issues of church unity".

This means that the WCC does not interfere in discussions which its member churches may have with the Roman Catholic Church. The World Council does however desire to be informed about such discussions and stands ready to give any assistance that it may be asked to give.

7. A clear distinction must also be made between the subjects which can properly be discussed between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church and those which can and must be discussed in bilateral conversations between the individual member churches (or confessional bodies) and the Roman Catholic Church.

Among these subjects which belong to the first category we would mention especially : a) practical collaboration in the fields of philanthropy, social and international affairs; b) theological study programmes which have a specific bearing on ecumenical relations (Faith and Order); c) problems which cause tension between the churches (e.g. mixed marriages, religious liberty, proselytism); d) common concerns with regard to the life and mission of the Church (laity, missions, etc.).

It is recognised that these subjects have certain aspects which can best be discussed at the international level, and other aspects which can best be discussed at the national level.

8. In the light of the above considerations it is proposed that a working group be established composed of 8 representatives of the WCC and of 6 representatives of the Roman Catholic Church. The task of this group would be to work out the principles which should be observed in further collaboration and the methods which

should be used. When discussing specific fields of work the group could invite persons specially concerned with these fields to sit with them as consultants. The working group would not be able to take any decisions, but elaborate proposals which would be submitted to the bodies they represent, and communicated to the member churches.

9. The relationships between the WCC staff and the Secretariat for the Promotion of Unity can best be maintained by the regular exchange of visits.

10. It will be important for the WCC to keep in these matters in close touch with the families of churches and confessional bodies, several of which will develop their own contacts with the Roman Catholic Church. This can be done by developing as much consultation and mutual representation as proves to be possible.

It may also be that some national councils of churches may desire the help of the WCC in their conversations with the Roman Catholic Church at the national level.

11. It should be underlined that the WCC desires to develop its relationships with all churches, which are not members of the WCC but which would maintain contacts with it.

- - - - -

Some preliminary considerations concerning
the nature, subject-matter and theme of the
Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches

The following notes are based on staff discussions in Geneva. Proposals concerning the number and allocation of delegates and on the method of dealing with WCC business at the Assembly will be made by the Committee on Structure. These notes deal therefore with the general subject-matter, theme and preparation for the Assembly.

1. Should the Assembly have a main theme ?

There are those who feel that a main theme (in the Evanston or in the New Delhi sense) is neither necessary nor desirable. Their argument is that the Assembly should concentrate on the major concerns of the WCC. A theme, they say, distracts attention away from these concerns and is superimposed on the concerns rather than organically related to them.

Others, while admitting that the theme has not "functioned" properly at the New Delhi Assembly, believe that it is essential to have a main theme. Without such a theme the image and interpretation of the Assembly becomes a highly uncertain matter. It is through a central theme that it becomes possible to get the attention of thousands of congregations and parishes focussed on the Assembly and to get them to participate in a spiritual way in its life. To make the major concerns of the WCC the centre of attention would lead to an introverted discussion which would put too little emphasis on the life of the churches themselves and too much emphasis on the World Council as an organisation. The main theme, if well chosen and taken seriously, can give the Assembly that deeper discussion which it needs to be truly significant.

2. Some major considerations in the choice of a theme

- a) The theme should be relevant both to the life of the Church and the life of the world. It should be neither merely introverted, nor merely extroverted.
- b) The theme should be closely related to the major concerns in the life of the churches and to the major studies and activities in which the WCC itself is engaged.
- c) The theme should catch the spiritual imagination of congregations at the local level.
- d) The theme should give a spiritual basis and substance to the life of the Assembly.
- e) The theme should enable the Assembly to react in a positive and helpful way to the situation created by the Second Vatican Council.

3. Concerns and emphases to be kept in mind

The following have been specially mentioned :

- a) Unity
- b) Mission and Service
- c) Social and International Justice
- d) Laity
- e) The Servant Church
- f) The Church and modern ideologies and secular philosophies.

4. Specific Proposals for the main theme

Three specific proposals have been made. It may be possible to combine them.

a) God reconciling the world

The theme of reconciliation concentrates attention on the divine initiative in salvation; on its character of act and fact. It has both vertical and horizontal dimensions. It embraces the world. It has meaning for the relations between churches, between nations, between races. It is comprehensive enough to serve as a basis for the consideration of the various concerns of the Council. It is specific enough to serve as a point of focus.

b) The Holy Spirit

This theme comes naturally after the theocentric theme of the first Assembly and the christocentric themes of the second and third Assemblies. The ecumenical movement has not yet given sufficient attention to pneumatology. Many aspects of the life of the Churches and of the WCC would be understood in a new way, if it were taken seriously.

c) The Servant Church

This theme is proposed because it is the focus-point of the reflection in very many sectors of our constituency about the renewal of the Church, about the missionary structure of the congregation, about the task of the Church in the world. It is felt that by working out this theme it would be possible to give the churches a new understanding of their own mandate and to give to the world a better conception of the Church's nature.

5. Methods of work

The following suggestions have been made with regard to the work of the Assembly :

- a) to hold a meeting of the present Central Committee of sufficient length to prepare specific proposals concerning the programme of the WCC in the period after the fourth Assembly. In this way the committees at the Assembly would find their task greatly facilitated;
- b) to discuss the main theme during the first two days of the Assembly, before the Assembly takes up other matters;

c) to prepare a further text on the nature of unity which would go further than the New Delhi statement on unity, and which would be handled in the same manner as that statement.

6. The time-factor

This Central Committee will have to decide how far it desires to go at this particular meeting. Does it want to decide at this stage what the main theme should be ? Or does it want to instruct the Executive Committee to study the matter further with a view to making a definite decision in the summer of 1966 ?

It is worth noting that it was in 1950 that the Central Committee took its first general decision concerning the theme of the Second Assembly (1954) and that the theme was definitely fixed in January 1953. In that case a preparatory commission began its work in 1951.

On the other hand, the first discussion of the theme of the third Assembly (1961) took place in 1957 and the theme was definitely chosen in 1958.

It would seem that, if the theme is only to be chosen in the summer of 1966, it will hardly be possible to prepare adequately for an Assembly in 1968.

Extract taken from the minutes of the
Executive Committee meeting of the
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING
held at Arnoldshain, Germany, May 10-13, 1964

a) A joint description of WACB relations :

The World Association for Christian Broadcasting is a fellowship of those concerned with Christian Broadcasting. It is governed entirely by its own aims and policies which are printed and can if necessary, be altered by a decision of the assembly. This freedom from all other organisations makes it impossible for the WACB to be subjected to or controlled by any organisation with which it happens to be associated, nor would any such association necessarily commit the WACB to an acceptance of the aims and purposes of any other organisation.

The WACB numbers among its members public controlled broadcasting agencies, church orientated agencies and churches in so far as they are engaged in Christian broadcasting. Its personal members include those who are interested in the development of Christian broadcasting for the proclamation of the Gospel in relation to the whole of life.

It is inevitable that the WACB should in the course of its work come into friendly relations with other bodies who are doing similar work if only to economise by avoiding overlapping. The number of the bodies with whom the WACB will co-operate is bound to grow as it becomes more active. Among these bodies may be such organisations as World Council of Churches, United Bible Societies, International Christian Broadcasters, etc.

b) Relation of WACB with WCC :

At this point in its history it is necessary for the WACB to define what relation it has with the World Council of Churches :

"The relationship between the WACB and the WCC is a fraternal one. This relationship is based upon the common concern of both organisations for a better and wider understanding of the Christian faith and for the exercise of the Christian vocation in Christian broadcasting. To explain what this means more exactly, three elements in the relationship can be listed :

- i. Mutual interests and information.
- ii. Exchange of representatives at important meetings and where necessary the exchange of facilities and channels of distribution.
- iii. Joint projects particularly in the field of studies, consultation and the production and distribution of programmes."

Associate to the Executive Director :

The Executive Committee turned its attention to the role that Michael de Vries would play in the future. It had already

expressed its deep gratitude for the work that he had done during the period when the WACB had had no Executive Director. As Associate to the Executive Director he had in fact acted as Executive Director. This situation is now changed and the appointment of a full-time Executive Director is as great a relief to him as to anybody else. Philippe Maury had said that he could give one fifth of his time to the WACB still, and it was necessary to work out the best way in which that time could be used. The Executive Director and Michael de Vries had already met and discussed future relations and division of work. The Executive Committee then agreed to the following list of duties which could be contained within the one fifth of his time :

- a) That Michael de Vries represent the WACB within the WCC as a staff member of the World Council of Churches and as one who can speak within its various committees for the WACB.
- b) That Michael de Vries represent the WACB at those committees in Europe when it is more convenient for him than the Executive Director to attend.
- c) That Michael de Vries represent the WACB on those committees and activities which the WACB shares with the WCC such as Co-ordinating Committee for Intercontinental Broadcasting.
- d) That Michael de Vries assist the European representative in the operation of the WACB in Europe.

It was recognised that in this Michael de Vries would be sharing with the Executive Director and there would not be a sharp division of duties. It was as the work of the WACB developed that we should see more clearly where one fifth of his time could be most usefully employed for the work of the WACB and the continual co-operation with the World Council of Churches.

Until the Executive Director took over full-time on the first of July, it was decided that all correspondence should be sent to Geneva as in the past year. From the first of July the address of the WACB would be the London address, and the Executive Director would simply refer correspondence to Michael de Vries when it was something which he had been dealing with and wished to complete.